

MDR Tracking Number: M5-04-0443-01

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective June 17, 2001 and Commission Rule 133.305 titled Medical Dispute Resolution - General and 133.308 titled Medical Dispute Resolution by Independent Review Organizations, the Medical Review Division assigned an IRO to conduct a review of the disputed medical necessity issues between the requestor and the respondent. The dispute was received on 10-13-03. Per Rule 133.308(e)(1) dates of service 07-12-02 through 10-10-02 were not timely filed.

The Medical Review Division has reviewed the IRO decision and determined that **the requestor prevailed** on the issues of medical necessity. Therefore, upon receipt of this Order and in accordance with §133.308(r)(9), the Commission hereby orders the respondent and non-prevailing party to **refund the requestor \$460.00** for the paid IRO fee. For the purposes of determining compliance with the order, the Commission will add 20 days to the date the order was deemed received as outlined on page one of this order.

In accordance with §413.031(e), it is a defense for the carrier if the carrier timely complies with the IRO decision.

Based on review of the disputed issues within the request, the Medical Review Division has determined that **medical necessity was the only issue** to be resolved. The office visits, myofascial release, joint mobilization, therapeutic procedures and physical medicine treatment were found to be medically necessary. The respondent raised no other reasons for denying reimbursement for the above listed services.

On this basis, and pursuant to §§402.042, 413.016, 413.031, and 413.019 of the Act, the Medical Review Division hereby ORDERS the respondent to pay the unpaid medical fees in accordance with the fair and reasonable rate as set forth in Commission Rule 133.1(a)(8) plus all accrued interest due at the time of payment to the requestor within 20 days of receipt of this order. This Order is applicable to dates of service 10-14-02 through 10-28-02 in this dispute.

The respondent is prohibited from asserting additional denial reasons relative to this Decision upon issuing payment to the requestor in accordance with this Order (Rule 133.307(j)(2)).

This Order is hereby issued this 10th day of February 2004.

Debra L. Hewitt
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division
DLH/dlh

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

Amended Letter

Note: Requested Service(s)
Decision

January 14, 2004

Rosalinda Lopez
Program Administrator
Medical Review Division
Texas Workers Compensation Commission
7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100, MS 48
Austin, TX 78744-1609

RE: MDR Tracking #: M5-04-0443-01
IRO Certificate #: IRO 4326

___ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission (TWCC) has assigned the above referenced case to ___ for independent review in accordance with TWCC Rule §133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

___ has performed an independent review of the rendered care to determine if the adverse determination was appropriate. In performing this review, relevant medical records, any documents utilized by the parties referenced above in making the adverse determination, and any documentation and written information submitted in support of the appeal was reviewed.

The independent review was performed by a matched peer with the treating health care professional. This case was reviewed by a health care professional licensed in chiropractic care. ___ health care professional has signed a certification statement stating that no known conflicts of interest exist between him or her and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed the case for a determination prior to the referral to ___ for independent review. In addition, the reviewer has certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party to this case.

Clinical History

This patient sustained an injury on ___ while lifting and moving boxes. She eventually underwent two shoulder surgeries, the last in June of 2002. She started seeing a chiropractor for treatment and therapy two weeks later.

Requested Service(s)

Office visits, physical medicine treatment, myofascial release, joint mobilization, and therapeutic procedures from 10/14/02 through 10/28/02

Decision

It is determined that the office visits, physical medicine treatment, myofascial release, joint mobilization, and therapeutic procedures from 10/14/02 through 10/28/02 were medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

The patient was evaluated by her surgeon and referred to post operative physical therapy to start range of motion exercises. Due to the distance between her residence and the clinic where she was receiving therapy, she was referred to a closer clinic for continuance of therapy.

She presented for an evaluation and x-rays. A treatment program was begun utilizing passive therapy. The x-rays were necessary to evaluate the current condition of her shoulder. She progressed into active therapy at the direction of her surgeon. Each date of service was properly documented. She was seen monthly by her surgeon and he continued to recommend and document the necessity of the therapy program she was receiving.

Chiropractic guidelines allow for this type of treatment for this type of injury. Given the fact the patient had two surgeries, it can be expected that her recovery time would be prolonged. The records indicate her condition was properly managed as she progressed through an aggressive post surgical treatment program. Improved range of motion and objective findings provide additional documentation as to the benefits the patient received from the treatment that was rendered. Therefore, it is determined that the office visits, physical medicine treatment, myofascial release, joint mobilization, and therapeutic procedures from 10/17/02 through 10/28/02 were medically necessary.

Sincerely,